

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 031632Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7381
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0593

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPT-CYPRUS RELATIONS

1. GOC FONMIN DIRGEN PELAGHIAS ADVISED US MARCH 3 THAT ROMANIA HAS AGREED TO ACT AS PROTECTING POWER FOR EGYPTIAN INTERESTS IN CYPRUS. THIS COMES AFTER A FLURRY OF SPECULATION EARLIER IN WEEK WHICH HAD GREECE ACTING FOR EGYPT. WHEN WE ASKED GREEK EMBASSY NICOSIA FOR CLARIFICATION, OUR COLLEAGUES WERE VERY EVASIVE AS TO WHETHER EGYPT HAD ASKED GREECE TO ACT IN ITS BEHALF. ALL THEY WOULD SAY WAS THAT RUMORS THAT GREECE HAD ACCEPTED TO ACT AS PROTECTING NOWER WERE FALSE.

2. PELAGHIAS SAID GOC HOPES TO MAINTAIN AS NORMAL A RELATIONSHIP WITH REMAINING EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAY, FIRST SECRETARY NAGUIB AS POSSIBLE. GOC WILL ALLOW HIM TO REMAIN IN EGYPTIAN EMBASSY PREMISES; WILL HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES; WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO TRANSMIT MAIL THROUGH THE ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT BY WHATEVER MEANS
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HE CHOOSES. THIS, PELAGHIAS SAID, CONTRASTS DRASTICALLY WITH WAY GOC WILL HAVE TO OPERATE IN EGYPT. CYPRIOTS ARE BEING REQUIRED TO USE BRITISH DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND WILL HAVE NO INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS.

3. DESPITE CONTINUING PROVOCATIONS, GOC IS CONTINUING TO WORK FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. MILITARY ATTACHE TAKKY WILL

BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO CYPRUS TO SUPERVISE THE SALVAGING OF
EGYPTIAN C-130 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED AT LARNACA. GOC HAS DECIDED
NOT TO RESPOND IN KIND TO PERSONAL INSULTS TO INDIVIDUAL
CYPRIOTS AND THE CYPRIOT PUBLIC IN RECENT SADAT SPEECHES.

4. PELAGHIAS RESTATED GOC HOPE THAT U.S. COULD PLAY CON-
STRUCTIVE ROLE IN HELPING EGYPT AND CYPRUS TO RETURN TO NORMAL
GOOD RELATIONS.

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